

March 16, 2021

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

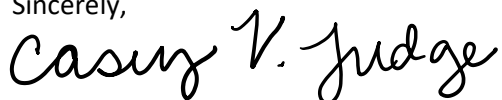
RE: Metro Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

The Fairfax County Young Adult Advisory Council's Urban Planning and Transportation subcommittee was extremely disappointed to learn of the massive budget cuts that will especially affect access and ridership for young adult residents of the County. Effective and reliable public transit maintains a vibrant interconnected DMV community and is critical to attracting and retaining young adult County residents. Many of our young adult community rely solely on Metrorail and Metrobus access to get to and from their places of work, and the closure of stations or reduced service will severely impact the already difficult commuting process. Of particular concern is the potential of closing Metro at 9:00 p.m. instead of 11:00 p.m., which disproportionately impacts those working in the service and restaurant industries, students throughout the County, and residents in lower socioeconomic communities who rely on Metro.

Of the potential Metrorail proposals, beginning in 2022, the following are under consideration: 1) closure of up to 22 stations (with over 25% of the stations located in Fairfax County); 2) operation of trains every 30 minutes on all lines, with 15-minutes between certain Red Line trains; 3) close Metrorail at 9 p.m. instead of 11 p.m.; and 4) adjust where some Red and Yellow line trains begin/end. Of the potential Metrobus proposals, the proposal will consider reduction of bus service to 50% of pre-pandemic levels. While this subcommittee strongly objects to all of the proposed options as they will negatively impact young adults, the most palatable option would be the adjustment of where some Red and Yellow line trains begin and end.

We hope that WMATA will continue to recognize how many young Fairfax County residents rely on Metro to successfully live, work, and entertain themselves throughout the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia region and will prioritize the provision of services to serve this important, growing demographic. We look forward to the consideration of a revised 2022 budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Casey V. Judge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Casey V. Judge, Subcommittee Chair

Young Adult Advisory Council's Urban Planning and Transportation Subcommittee